

REMARKS

Claims 19-38 are pending in this application, and Claims 1-20 are cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments.

Claims 1-38 were subject to an election requirement. The examiner has indicated that the subject application contained claims directed to the following groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept:

Group I: Claim 1-18; drawn to a package and an end cap;

Group II: Claim 19, drawn to a method for fabricating a package; and

Group III: Claim 20-38, drawn to a product container.

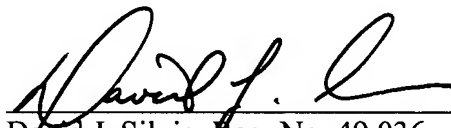
In response to the election requirement, Applicants elect the invention of Group III, which includes Claims 20-38. This election is made with the understanding that upon allowance of an independent claim directed to the elected group, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims that are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed claim.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that this Response, along with the accompanying fee and Petition for Extension of Time, are timely submitted. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105, under Order No. 65845(52888). If it is believed that an interview would advance prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' representative at the number below. Early consideration and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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